

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. Canceled.
2. (Currently amended) A connection architecture ~~according to claim 1, for~~ XDSL lines comprising:  
filters and/or splitters located in an intermediate distribution frame;  
a test table connected directly to the intermediate distribution frame independently of  
digital subscriber line access multiplexor (DSLAM); and  
~~further comprising~~ at least one smart card installed in the intermediate distribution frame with the filters and/or splitters therein, the at least one smart card being configured to connect the test table to the intermediate distribution frame, the at least one smart card containing devices that can be activated from the test table to digitally and automatically monitor the filters and/or splitters.
3. (Previously Presented) A connection architecture according to claim 2, wherein said at least one smart card is configured to allow monitoring of a subscriber loop of filter cards associated with lines associated with other operators, and to allow monitoring of both a subscriber loop and a DSLAM signal for lines associated with a dominant operator.
4. (Previously Presented) A connection architecture according to claim 2, wherein said filters and/or splitters are associated with a first operator and wherein said at least one smart card is configured to place filters of at least one second operator in the intermediate distribution frame.

5. (Previously Presented) A connection architecture according to claim 2, wherein said at least one smart card is actuated from the test table using a digital bus.

6. (Previously Presented) A connection architecture according to claim 5, wherein said digital bus includes two power wires, two measurement wires and wires for activating all measurement points.

7-8. Canceled.

9. (Previously Presented) An intermediate distribution frame for a connection architecture for XDSL lines, comprising:

a frame;

filter and/or splitter cards in the frame;

at least one smart card configured to allow digital monitoring of filters associated with the filter and/or splitter cards;

output connectors; and

an additional card and/or backplane including a connector configured to receive a signal from a digital subscriber line access multiplexor (DSLAM).

10. (Previously Presented) An intermediate distribution frame as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one smart card contains devices which are activated from a test table.

11. (Previously Presented) An intermediate distribution frame as claimed in claim 9, wherein said at least one smart card is configured to allow monitoring of a subscriber loop associated with at least one of the filter and/or splitter cards that is associated with a non-dominant operator and monitoring of both a subscriber loop and a DSLAM signal associated with at least one of the filter and/or splitter cards that is associated with a dominant operator.

12. (Previously Presented) An intermediate distribution frame as claimed in claim 9, wherein the filter and/or splitter cards are associated with a dominant operator and wherein

the at least one smart card is configured to receive filters of at least one second operator to place the filters of the at least one second operator in the frame.

13. (Previously Presented) An intermediate distribution frame as claimed in claim 9, further comprising a digital bus configured to couple said at least one smart card to a test table used to actuate the at least one smart card.

14. (Previously Presented) An intermediate distribution frame according to claim 13, wherein said digital bus includes two power supply wires, two measurement wires and wires to activate all measurement points.

15. (Previously Presented) An intermediate distribution frame according to claim 9, wherein the filter and/or splitter cards are connected to the frame by connectors configured to, when an associated one of the filter and/or splitter cards are extracted, connect a voice input signal directly to a combined voice and data output signal so that a voice service associated with the extracted card is not disconnected.